

BACKGROUND

The Plainfield Police responded to over 1,323 false alarm calls in 2007. Unfounded alarm calls reduce the Police Department's effectiveness and undermines our ability to respond to more critical calls. Because of our concern for police officer safety, and to eliminate misuse of police resources, the Village Board adopted this legislation on September 27, 1999.

FALSE ALARM REDUCTION PROGRAM

The main objective of this ordinance is to reduce the number of false alarms to which police respond to each year. The program is designed to register alarm users, send notification of false alarms, bill alarm users for excessive false alarms, ensure appropriate inspections occur, and handle informal appeals regarding the false designation of alarm activations.

WHAT IS A FALSE ALARM?

The alarm law defines a false alarm as: **ANY ALARM SIGNAL THAT ELICITS A RESPONSE BY POLICE PERSONNEL FOR WHICH THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITY TO JUSTIFY A POLICE RESPONSE.** This simply means that if a police officer responds to an alarm signal and, after investigation, finds no evidence that criminal activity caused the alarm to activate, the officer will designate the alarm signal as a false alarm. A false alarm may be caused by factors such as human error or equipment malfunction.

ALARM USER REGISTRATION

All alarm systems must be registered with the Police Department **within five (5) days of installation.** Registration does not apply to fire or car alarm systems.

Registration forms are available at the Police Department Alarm Coordinator, 14300 S. Coil Plus Drive, Plainfield, IL 60544-7704 at (815) 439-4805 or on line at www.plainfield-il.org.

Application information must be completed including: name, address, telephone, alarm servicing and monitoring companies, alarm company's State of Illinois license number, the names and phone numbers of at least two (2) people who have agreed to and are available to respond within thirty (30) minutes to deactivate an activated alarm.

An annual, non-refundable registration fee of \$10.00 for a residential alarm, and \$25.00 for a commercial alarm, must be paid prior to a permit being issued. Fees are waived for Senior Citizens age 65 and over and for those persons with disabilities. Annual registration is valid from January 1 to December 31. Renewal applications will be mailed to you in November for the next year's registration.

A FEE OF \$200 WILL BE CHARGED FOR EACH POLICE RESPONSE TO AN UNREGISTERED RESIDENTIAL OR BUSINESS ALARM, IN ADDITION TO THE ANNUAL REGISTRATION FEE.

NOTIFY POLICE IF:

You change alarm company; your mailing address; or your keyholder information changes; or for **any** information which may affect law enforcement response to an activated alarm. **(You are not required to re-register, but are required to have current information on file.)**

Your alarm is disconnected and no longer being used. Your account will be closed only after disconnection notice in writing is received. Alarms activated after disconnection will be billed to you.

You move, but new owners want to continue alarm service. Once we receive written notification, your account will be closed and new owners will be responsible for registration and activated alarms. Your registration is **not** transferable.

If your system is malfunctioning or being repaired possibly causing numerous unnecessary false alarms. You will be billed for any excessive false alarms.

HOW THE LAW WORKS

Every registered alarm user is allowed three (3) "free" false alarms in a calendar year. On the fourth false alarm within a calendar year, a False Alarm Response Fee is imposed.

On the sixth false alarm in a calendar year, further actions may be imposed upon the alarm user, including but not limited to:

Having the alarm system re-inspected by a licensed alarm company to ensure that all mechanical components of the alarm system are in good working order.

The alarm user being retrained by the alarm company on proper use of the alarm system.

ALARM COMPANY RESPONSIBILITIES

Your alarm company should notify you within 72 hours if they requested a police dispatch to your alarm location.

Your alarm/monitoring company must attempt to verify every alarm signal, except duress, panic or hold up, **before** requesting police to be dispatched.

If it's determined that an alarm signal is false, your alarm/monitoring company must immediately **(within 3 minutes)** attempt to cancel the police dispatch. **An alarm call can be cancelled within 3 minutes of the initial call.** You cannot personally cancel a police dispatch unless you initiated the call. Do **not** let your alarm company tell you this cannot be done.

When a new alarm system is installed in your home or business, your alarm company is required by ordinance to provide you with a completed and signed Installation Checklist. This Checklist affirms that:

The system meets or exceeds installation standards.

All persons responsible for system operation are fully trained on its proper use.

The alarm company explained the requirements for registration and have completed and provided the alarm user with a copy of the registration form.

FALSE ALARM RESPONSE FEE SCHEDULE

Fees apply only if the police are dispatched to the alarm location and the signal is false.

- 1st – 3rd Alarm Response - Free With Annual Registration
- 4th Alarm Response - \$50.00
- 5th Alarm Response - \$100.00
- 6 or More Alarm Responses - \$200.00 ea.

**YOU ARE IN VIOLATION OF THE
LAW IF YOU FAIL TO:**

**Register Your Alarm
Obtain A Required Inspection
Pay An Imposed False Alarm Fee**

SUSPENSION OF ALARM RESPONSE

If six (6) or more false alarms occur within one (1) calendar year, the Village may suspend law enforcement response to the alarm.

APPEALS

An alarm user may appeal the assessment of a fee or suspension, or request reinstatement by applying to the Alarm Administrator.



BURGLAR ALARM ORDINANCE

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**DONALD E. BENNETT
Chief of Police**